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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patricia Preikschat et al.
Serial No.: 09/171,558 Art Unit: 1775
Filed: March 29, 1999
Title: CHROMIUM(VI)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT
Examiner: R. Koehler
Docket No.: 31716

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AMENDMENT

(Filed in response to Paper No. 17)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

As set forth in the accompanying cover letter, this Amendment is being filed in response to the Office action mailed August 7, 2000.

The Examiner objected to the specification for numerous reasons and stated that the required additions and alterations would render it difficult to consider the application or to arrange the papers for printing or copying. For this reason, a substitute specification was required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125.

Please amend the application without prejudice as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 73 as follows:

On line 4, please delete "phosphoric ions," and insert therefor --phosphorus-containing ions,--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification with the substitute specification filed herewith, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 and 1.125(b). One clean copy of the substitute specification is provided, as well as one marked-up copy showing the